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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1944.



ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.INTERIMANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHFOR THE YEAR1 9 4 4.STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

+ O.N. LITTLE. + J.M. DEKINS. (Resigned 9.12.44.)

+ P.M. RUDHALL. (Appointed 11.12.44.)

(+Temporary Appointments.)

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing
Designated Officer:

+ R. SHAW BATCHFORD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., AFF.INST.M. & CY.E.

(+ Holds Statutory Sanitary Inspectors Certificate
& Certificate of R.S.I. for Meat & Other
Foods, & Certificated Building Surveyor.)

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Council Chambers,
Broad Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1944, which is in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. Notwithstanding that this was the fifth year of war, I am pleased to report that the health of the inhabitants of the District remained very good and the incidence of infectious disease was low.

Although the year was one of general drought, there was no shortage of water experienced in the town and the mains of the Water Undertaking provided an adequate supply of wholesome water in all parts of the area.

The most important action of the Council was the inauguration of measures to complete the housing on the Three Crosses Estate.

To this purpose, the Council instructed Mr. Evan Davoll to prepare plans and to make as much progress as possible with the scheme.

The new cemetery at Tudorville was formally opened on Saturday, July 29th. 1944, at 3 p.m. and whilst no interments have yet taken place, the Council is in a position to meet the need at any time.

Certain minor improvements were made in the Public Mortuary resulting in better facilities.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the support which the Council has always shown me in the execution of my duties. This has greatly helped the Department to work with smoothness and efficiency.

I am indebted to my colleagues Mr. E.E. Moses, Clerk to the Council, Mr. C. Caddick, Surveyor to the Council, and Mr. R. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for much help, not only in the preparation of this Report but throughout the period under review.

The Annual Report upon climatic conditions prevailing, by Mr. F.J. Parsons of the Observatory, is included and will make interesting reading. My thanks are due to Mr. Parsons for kindly preparing this Report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG.

Medical Officer of Health.

March 1945.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,004 |
| Population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,744 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (End of 1944) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,341 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £32,135 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £127.0.0 |

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 21.0

Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still) 47.6

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude) 18.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

| | | | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 Total Births. |
|----------------|-----|------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Heading No. 29 | ... | Puerperal Sepsis | NIL. | NIL. |
| Heading No. 30 | ... | Other Puerperal Causes | NIL. | NIL. |

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| All Infants per 1,000 Live Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33.3 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 300.0 |

The Urban District forms a small country town on the River Wye, and forms a centre for the surrounding Rural District. The industries located in the town include a brewery, a timber and joinery works and a grain mill. Since 1939, the town has been affected by new industry to a very limited degree but an oil works and two light engineering concerns provide employment at the present time. The town has considerable reputation

as a holiday and health resort and catering for the visitors forms an important trade for six months in each year.

The population which showed little tendency to alter was slightly increased after 1939.

The following statistics relating to the year under review may be of interest:-

| | |
|---|-----|
| The estimated average number of persons per inhabited house | 3.5 |
| Average number of inhabited houses per acre | 1.3 |
| Average number of persons per acre | 4.7 |

Live Births Registered
in the District during 1944.

| | Male. | Female. |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Legitimate | 44 | 46 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 49 | 51 |

Illegitimate births formed 9.5% of the total live and still births.

Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area:

Laboratory Facilities:-

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, now maintained by the Medical Research Council and under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones continued to provide a service for the usual clinical laboratory investigations, the examination of water and the bacteriological examination of milk and other foods.

The work carried out by the Laboratory is of the utmost value to the Public Health Service and to the medical practitioners within the District.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out on behalf of the Department:-

Specimens Examined.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Swabs | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Blood | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Sputum | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Water - Bacteriological | | | | 17 |
| Chemical | | | | 3 |

Ambulance Service:-

The Order of St. John maintain a motor ambulance at the Headquarters in Edde Cross Street which is available for the inhabitants of the District on payment of scale charges. The Council makes an annual donation to the Order in return for an accident service which is available at all times throughout the year.

Public Mortuary:-

The Public Mortuary was well conducted and managed throughout the year, and certain structural improvements were carried out by the Surveyor to the Council, Mr. C. Caddick, which resulted in an improvement in privacy and the installation of a hot water supply. During the year four bodies were brought in from the Urban District and two from the adjoining Rural District.

Hospitals:-

The Ross Cottage Hospital is a voluntary hospital of 16 beds and receives medical and surgical cases. The hospital is provided with an X-ray apparatus.

Camp Meadow Hospital is a small hospital of 12 beds established by the Herefordshire County Council as a temporary measure in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

Water:-

I am indebted to Mr. Richardson, manager of the Ross Water Undertaking for much of the following information pertaining to the water supplies of the area.

The mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a constant supply of potable water throughout the District. This water is pumped from boreholes in the old red sandstone at the Alton Court Waterworks. In part of the District, the Water Undertaking provides in addition a river water supply which is valuable for boiler and other industrial purposes, on account of its low hardness content of 6 - 7 parts per 100,000 against 22 parts per 100,000 in the Alton Court Supply.

The Alton Court Supply is of excellent quality for potable purposes, and as a further safeguard a continuous automatic chlorinator is inserted between the pumps and the reservoir. The quality of the water was checked by 18 samples submitted for bacteriological examination and 4 samples for chemical examination during the year. All samples showed that the water was a potable water of high quality. All samples were taken after the water had passed the chlorinator. The water has no tendency to dissolve metals.

Generally speaking 1944 was a difficult year for water supplies throughout the country, but an adequate supply was maintained throughout the year within the Urban District. The daily consumption varied from 240,000 gallons per day in winter to a maximum of 308,000 gallons per day in the mid-summer period. It is estimated that this represents a daily consumption per head per day of 50 gallons for all purposes. The supply is constant and is supplied at a adequate pressure to all parts of the District. The defective pressure at the higher Three Crosses Estate has now been remedied by the installation of an automatic electric boosting plant which commenced operating in June. The action of the booster has resulted in a slight improvement in the supply to the Greytree area and has produced a decrease in wastage.

There are no stand pipes within the Urban District and with the exception of three isolated dwellings all domestic premises are connected to the mains. In a few instances the taps are placed in the exterior and occasional taps are shared by two or more dwellings.

There are still three wells in use at domestic premises and the old public well in Corpus Christi Lane continues to yield water of potable quality, but is rapidly falling into disuse.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

Nine new drains were constructed within the District during the year. These formed new drains to existing buildings with the exception of the new Central School Canteen in Mill Pond Street, all were examined and tested by the Sanitary Inspector.

Public sewers extend throughout the District but the system is not entirely satisfactory in all parts, for some of the public sewers are very old and at times are not quite able to deal with the flow. The most serious defects appear to be at the lower part of Archenfield Road and in the Brookend District. The sewage is finally discharged into the River Wye.

Rivers and Streams:-

During the year a serious pollution of the River Wye by mineral oil occurred, arising from an industrial establishment in the town. A successful prosecution was undertaken by the Wye Board of Conservators in January of the present year under the Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries Act and a heavy fine was imposed. The careful records of observations which the Sanitary Inspector has kept were of considerable

~~assistance to the prosecution.~~

This industrial concern has made efforts to prevent mineral oil gaining access to the river. The system used consists of three flotation tanks in series, a separating tower and finally a rotary filter. Whilst this should be capable of removing all oil from the effluent, practical experience suggests that the scheme cannot completely deal with sudden overloads.

The system also appears to be unable to remove completely some aromatic substance which can be detected at times in the stream water at some distance from the works.

However, other sources of oil pollution must be considered and the oil drum store in Edde Cross Street certainly contributes, for rain washes from this property spillings which pass with the storm water into the sewers and eventually into the river.

At the present time, many motor vehicles are in use in a very worn condition. As a result, a certain amount of oil escapes to the roads and eventually finds its way into the river during wet weather.

Oil on the River Wye is very obvious as the water is very clear and a very small quantity of mineral oil will spread over a very large distance, as the oil film is usually extremely thin.

Throughout the year the Sanitary Inspector has kept the condition of the River Wye and its tributaries under constant observation. One animal carcase was removed from the Wye for burial during the year.

Public Cleansing:-

The Council undertakes a weekly collection of household refuse throughout the District. The collection of trade refuse has been in abeyance throughout the war period.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping, but as a result of the shortage of labour this has been carried out less systematically than formerly. Whilst it has never been possible for fully controlled tipping to be carried out owing to the scarcity of covering material even in pre-war years, such material disappeared altogether with the cessation of building operations.

As a result, the town tip became a very suitable breeding place for flies which caused considerable nuisance in a number of dwellings. The control of this pest is most important as flies spread disease, especially infections of the alimentary tract.

In addition to flies, numerous crickets inhabit the tip no doubt attracted by the heat generated by decomposition of the organic matter.

Rats and Mice Destruction:-

Throughout the year this work has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The town tip has been energetically treated and the public sewers were also disinfested. This work was checked by the Ministry of Food Pest Officer who confirmed that the results were entirely satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

I am indebted to Mr. R. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations:-

Inspections:-

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Common Lodging Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Cowsheds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |

Inspections (contd.):-

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Factories with Mechanical Power | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Factories without Mechanical Power | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Infectious Disease | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Markets | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Military Inspections | ... | ... | ... | 183 |
| Premises where Food is prepared | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Miscellaneous - Under Public Health Act | ... | ... | ... | 64 |
| Rats and Mice | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Work in Progress | ... | ... | ... | 201 |
| Hospital Disinfections | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Other Disinfections | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

440

Notices Issued:-

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Informal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Statutory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

42

Defects Remedied:-

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Roofs Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Spouting Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Windows Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| General Woodwork Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Floors Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Chimneys Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Plaster Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| New Drains Provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Ball Taps Renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| New Pedestal Pans to W.C.s | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Stopped Drains Cleared | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Defective Drains Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Offensive Accumulations Removed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Rats and Mice Infestations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 |

The number of inspections is less than in the previous year and this is due to the fact that during the period of Flying bomb attacks, the Inspector was obliged to devote much of his energy to the problems resulting from reception of evacuees.

Common Lodging Houses:-

The number of these in the town remained at three and all were inspected regularly during the year. I regret to report that the Common Lodging House situated in Brookend Street has not been kept in a satisfactory condition owing to the illness of the keeper.

Factories and Workshops:-

The register of factories was revised from time to time as changes occurred and the inspection of these premises was maintained throughout the year.

Defects in sanitary conditions were found in two factories and appropriate action was taken to secure abatement. In one factory an improvement of the sanitary accommodation was remedied.

Camping Sites:-

Camping within the boundary of the Urban District does not constitute a major problem to the Department

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of Camping Sites in the Area used for Camping purposes during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Number of Camping Sites in respect of which Licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of Public Health Act 1936 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Estimated maximum campers resident in the Area at one time during summer season 1944 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |

SECTION D. HOUSING:

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector made a careful survey of the dwellings of a type suitable for members of the working classes within the District. This survey revealed that in a number of instances dwellings were occupied by more than one family and that a number of dwellings were overcrowded. The Sanitary Inspector's Report showed that altogether 188 families were in need of rehousing.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:-

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1. (a) | Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| (b) | Number of Inspections made for the purpose | | | | | | 64 |
| 2. | Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation | | | | | | 33 |

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year
Proceedings under Public Health Act:-

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| | Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (a) | By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in Default of Owners | | | | | NIL |

Numbers 13 and 14 Alton Street:-

These two houses had been the subject of Demolition Orders, but, owing to the outbreak of war, demolition was not proceeded with. The Defence Regulations gave authority for this type of house to be re-occupied provided that necessary works were carried out. Licences to occupy were to be of six months validity and were to be renewed at the expiration every six months. These two houses have remained in occupation on these terms throughout the year.

Van Dwellings:-

The removal of 7 caravans which migrated into the District during the year was secured as a result of informal action by the Department. Unless control is maintained with regard to these dwellings, small settlements would become established accompanied, no doubt, with the insanitary environment which appears to be inseparable from groups of these dwellings.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Milk:-

The number of purveyors registered with the Authority remained unchanged with 4 wholesale and 15 retail purveyors. Dairies and cowsheds were inspected from time to time. The Sanitary Inspector acts as Sampling Officer on behalf of the Herefordshire County Council for the purposes of the Milk Special Designations Order.

In one instance, milk churns were found to be in an unsatisfactory condition; this was remedied after informal action by the Department.

Meat and Other Foods:-

No slaughtering of meat intended for sale for human

consumption has been carried out during the year, but meat and other foods exposed for sale in the town are inspected as thoroughly as possible. The Sanitary Inspector attends the markets held in the town and also carries out inspection of meat at the Central Abattoir in Hereford City.

Food found to be Unfit for Human Consumption during the Year:-

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 70 | pounds Dates. |
| 113 | stones Fish. |
| 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ | pounds Ham. |
| 30 | six-pound tins Pork Luncheon Meat. |
| 7 | two & half-pound tins Pork Luncheon Meat. |
| 248 | tins miscellaneous Foodstuffs. |
| 3 | pounds Margarine. |
| 47 | pounds Rice. |
| 3 | pounds Jam. |
| 126 $\frac{3}{4}$ | pounds Butter. |
| 12 | pounds Sausage. |
| 263 | pounds Beef. |
| 25 | pounds Mutton. |
| 12 | pounds Brawn. |
| 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ | pounds Duck Galatine. |
| 21 | pounds Bacon. |
| 1 | carcase Poultry. |
| 2 | dozen Meat Pies. |
| 1 | tinned Turkey. |

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year was very low; only 26 notifications were received. The most frequent infection was measles, 14 cases were notified all of which except two occurred in the fourth quarter. There were three notifications of diphtheria, one occurring in a female child of five years who had not previously been immunised. Only two cases of scarlet fever were brought to the notice of the Department.

Notifiable Disease during the Year 1944.

| Disease. | Total Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Deaths. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Measles | 14 | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 3 | - | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever | 2 | 2 | - |
| Erysipelas | 2 | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | - | - |
| Diphtheria | 3 | 1 | - |

Analysis of Total Cases Notified According to Age.

| Disease. | Age Groups. | | | | | | | | | | | | Totals. |
|-----------------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| | Under 1 | 1+ | 2+ | 3+ | 4+ | 5+ | 10+ | 15+ | 20+ | 35+ | 45+ | 65+ | |
| Measles | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 14 |
| Whooping Cough | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 3 |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Totals | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 6 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | - | 26 |

| Incidence of Notifiable Disease Allocated as to Quarter. | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 1st. Quarter. | 2nd. Quarter. | 3rd. Quarter. | 4th. Quarter. |
| Measles | - | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| Whooping Cough | - | - | 1 | - |
| Pneumonia | 3 | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Diphtheria | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | - | - | 1 |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | 2 |

Hospital Treatment:-

Two cases of scarlet fever and one case of diphtheria were admitted to the Stretton Sugwas Hospital. All cases recovered and were discharged from Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme is carried out by the medical practitioners of the area and by the Public Health Department. The total number of children who completed courses of diphtheria prophylactic during the year is indicated in the following table:-

| Age Group. | 1 - 5 Years. | 5 - 15 Years. | 1 - 15 Years. |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1st. Quarter. | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| 2nd. Quarter. | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 3rd. Quarter. | 4 | - | 4 |
| 4th. Quarter. | 34 | 6 | 40 |

These figures cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory but it is possible that these figures are slightly lower than the actual numbers as they indicate only the number of children who are known by the Department to have completed a course of prophylactic injections. It was estimated that at the end of the year 56.7% of children under 15 years had completed a course of prophylactic.

Scabies:-

The total number of cases of scabies brought to the notice of the Department was 26. This figure represents an increase on that of the previous year of over 80% and is only part of the total increase. All treatment is carried out in the home as no cleansing station is available. This system is not entirely satisfactory.

Tuberculosis:-

At the beginning of the year there were 39 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 18 pulmonary and 21 non-pulmonary cases. During the year, 12 cases were added to the Register - 8 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary, and 7 cases were removed from the Register - 5 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. At the end of the year therefore, 43 cases remained on the Register - 20 pulmonary and 23 non-pulmonary.

New Cases & Mortality during 1944.

| Age Periods. | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1+ | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5+ | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15+ | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 25+ | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 35+ | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 45+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 & Over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | - |

The notification of infectious disease is carried out efficiently by the medical practitioners of the District, who also carry out diphtheria immunisation under the Council's scheme. Without this willing co-operation by the practitioners the number of children immunised would be very much smaller.

Health Propoganda:-

During the year, the Council arranged for the exhibition in the town of a number of Health Education films with the co-operation of the proprietors of the cinemas in the town. The films were provided by the Ministry of Information. In addition, posters embracing a variety of health subjects were exhibited by the Department throughout the year.

Meteorological Report:-

I am indebted to Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist-in-charge, The Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, for the following report for the year 1944:-

AIR TEMPERATURE (in shade) DEGREES FAHR.

| Month. | Means. | Difference from Normal. | Extremes. | |
|-----------|--------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | | Maximum. | Minimum. |
| January | 44.8 | +5.4 | 57 | 24 |
| February | 39.2 | -0.8 | 56 | 22 |
| March | 42.9 | +0.3 | 69 | 26 |
| April | 51.1 | +4.0 | 72 | 34 |
| May | 53.4 | +0.1 | 86 | 31 |
| June | 57.3 | -1.3 | 76 | 43 |
| July | 62.1 | +0.2 | 78 | 48 |
| August | 63.2 | +2.4 | 81 | 47 |
| September | 55.1 | -1.5 | 69 | 34 |
| October | 49.5 | 0.0 | 60 | 32 |
| November | 44.7 | +1.1 | 58 | 28 |
| December | 39.7 | -0.6 | 56 | 19 |
| Year | 50.3 | +0.8 | 86(May 29) 19(Dec.27) | |

The hottest day, May 29th., established a record high temperature for May and also for Whit-Monday. The extreme maximum temperatures for September and October were the lowest for many years. Only three times has a warmer April been experienced viz. in 1893, 1914 and 1943.

GROUND TEMPERATURE (DEGREES FAHR).

| | Means. One Foot Depth. | Difference from Normal. | Four feet depth. | Difference from Normal. | Nights of Ground Frost. | |
|-----------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | No. | Lowest. |
| January | 42.9 | +3.0 | 44.8 | +1.1 | 8 | 15 |
| February | 41.1 | +1.4 | 44.2 | +1.4 | 14 | 12 |
| March | 41.8 | -0.4 | 43.1 | -0.4 | 21 | 17 |
| April | 49.8 | +2.7 | 47.6 | +1.3 | 6 | 27 |
| May | 55.1 | +1.2 | 52.1 | +1.5 | 9 | 22 |
| June | 59.4 | -0.9 | 56.0 | +0.2 | 0 | 34 |
| July | 62.8 | -0.5 | 58.8 | -0.4 | 0 | 42 |
| August | 65.1 | +2.7 | 61.2 | +1.1 | 0 | 38 |
| September | 57.7 | -0.8 | 58.6 | -0.3 | 2 | 28 |
| October | 51.3 | -0.2 | 54.2 | -0.5 | 3 | 27 |
| November | 54.2 | +0.4 | 48.9 | -0.8 | 10 | 21 |
| December | 41.3 | +0.5 | 45.7 | +0.2 | 16 | 15 |
| Year | 51.1 | +0.7 | 51.3 | +0.4 | 89 | 12 Feb.6. |

September was the first month to have rainfall up to normal after a period of eleven consecutive months (October 1943 - August 1944 inclusive) during which total rainfall was 15.46 inches. Only once has there been less rain for an eleven-month period (in 1921, February - December) with 13.30 inches. 1944 was the driest year since 1921.

Bright sunshine was abundant during the Spring months. May was the sunniest month for several years. The Summer was dull, apart from August, and July set up a new low record of only 94 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours. Never previously has a total for a summer month been under a 100 hours. Yet the Summer as a whole was up to average warmth.

RAINFALL 1944 (INCHES).

| Month | Total. | Difference from Normal. | Highest Daily Fall. | No. of Rain Days. (.005 inch or more). |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| January | 2.11 | -0.43 | .83 | 10 |
| February | .51 | -1.51 | .14 | 11 |
| March | .222 | -2.15 | .13 | 5 |
| April | 1.20 | - $\frac{1}{2}$.73 | .23 | 10 |
| May | .73 | -1.38 | .26 | 7 |
| June | 1.67 | -0.25 | .24 | 16 |
| July | 1.56 | -0.71 | .29 | 12 |
| August | 2.21 | -0.30 | .60 | 11 |
| September | 2.49 | +0.37 | .76 | 11 |
| October | 3.39 | +0.20 | .67 | 17 |
| November | 4.04 | +1.37 | .61 | 22 |
| December | 2.07 | -0.66 | 1.12 | 16 |
| Year | 22.20 | -6.19 | 1.12 (Dec. 16.) | 148 |

BRIGHT SUNSHINE 1944 (HOURS AND TENTHS).

| Month. | Total. | Difference from Normal. | Best Day's Record. | Number of Sunless Days. |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| January | 45.0 | -8.9 | 7.0 | 9 |
| February | 68.7 | +1.4 | 9.0 | 10 |
| March | 146.7 | +32.7 | 11.5 | 7 |
| April | 156.2 | +12.0 | 13.4 | 4 |
| May | 218.0 | +33.2 | 14.3 | 0 |
| June | 148.0 | -58.5 | 13.1 | 1 |
| July | 94.7 | -87.1 | 10.3 | 2 |
| August | 182.1 | + 0.5 | 12.7 | 4 |
| September | 143.9 | + 6.5 | 11.4 | 2 |
| October | 77.5 | -19.4 | 7.4 | 5 |
| November | 35.8 | -25.8 | 7.3 | 8 |
| December | 53.7 | + 3.8 | 6.6 | 7 |
| Year | 1350.3 | -129.6 | 14.3 (May 28.) | 59 |

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